

**Tall Pines STEM Academy Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Meeting Date: January 20, 2022**  
**Location: Tall Pines Campus – Camp Long, Aiken South Carolina**  
**Commencement Time: 5 pm**

Presiding: Michelle Lorio

**1. Meeting Opening:**

- a. Michelle called the meeting to order at 5:02pm and Chasity read the mission. Tim called roll and a quorum was established.
- b. Meeting Attendance:
  - i. Present:
    - Lori Mastromonico, Patsy Smith, Mandy Sims, Tim Meesseman, Michelle Lorio, Chasity McDaniel, Phillip Dersham, Alissa Perry, and Wendy Dietzel
  - ii. Absent:
    - Jennifer Minolfo and Tracie McBride
  - iii. Public members:
    - Stephen Lance, Christie Weimer

**2. Old Business**

- a. PTA Update
  - i. A few tasks left over from dissolving the PTA
    - Membership fees that were turned in have been opened and returned with a note explaining that the PTA has been dissolved
    - Return records to PTA association
    - Need to file 990 IRS form
  - ii. Will do further research and ask parents about potential PTO involvement
- b. Generic Board Email Address
  - i. This account was disabled and removed from the website
  - ii. Suggestion was made to reactivate generic address as a distribution list for the entire board
- c. Board Insurance and 4% of the budget for the board?
  - i. Board has always been covered with liability insurance
  - ii. We also have accident insurance on students and staff
  - iii. The 4% is the insurance, which is shown on the annual budget

**3. Matters for Decision:**

- a. Approve November Meeting Minutes:
  - i. November minutes approval has been postponed until February
- b. Monthly Financials:
  - i. Financials for November 2021
    - Tim motioned to approve financials for November and Wendy seconded
    - A vote was taken and accepted unanimously
  - ii. Financials for December 2021

- Mandy motioned to approve financials for December and Phillip seconded
  - A vote was taken and accepted unanimously
- c. Replacement of Patsy Smith as ex-officio non-voting representative of Youth Learning Institute
  - i. Stephen Lance willing to step in as interim
  - ii. Patsy will send letter of resignation to make it official
    - Mandy motioned to appoint Stephen as interim, and Chasity seconded
    - A vote was taken and accepted unanimously
  - iii. Patsy suggested we keep the weighting system the same as Aiken County since most students will go to an Aiken County high school after Tall Pines
    - Aiken County is waiting on a possible waiver due to COVID-19
  - iv. Tabling decision until April 2021 at the latest
  - v. Board vote was unanimous to table decision until April
- d. Adjourn to Executive Session:
  - i. Michelle motioned to adjourn to Executive Session at 5:49 pm and Wendy seconded
  - ii. Tim motioned to exit Executive Session at 6:20 pm and Wendy seconded
  - iii. Michelle motioned to take a vote to waive Lori in as permanent principal and was seconded by Wendy
    - Votes in Favor: Mandy, Phillip, Wendy, Tim, Michelle
    - Votes Against: Alissa, Chasity
    - Vote was taken 5-2, and the majority voted to waive Lori in as permanent principal

#### 4. Matters for Discussion

- a. Finance Committee Updates (Wendy):
  - i. N/A
- b. Fundraising Committee Updates:
  - i. We need someone on the board to oversee fundraising and will act as a liaison for the board
  - ii. A decision on the next liaison will be made next month
  - iii. Gym update
    - YLI will likely do flooring and heating/air, making the fundraising burden significantly smaller
    - TPSA needs to focus more on equipment needs for the gym
    - Gym will have two bathrooms
    - Would have to take out additional insurance to use building for events, so it will be used for internal purposes only for now
    - Timeline is a little behind due to COVID, so completion is estimated to complete around April 2022
- c. Principal Search Committee
  - i. No longer applicable

#### 5. Matters of Noting:

- a. School/Principal's Update (Lori)
  - i. Athletics wrapping up a great basketball season

- ii. Soccer is coming up soon
- iii. 5K race coming February 19
- iv. Packs
  - Pack council raised money for two cancer organizations
  - Serotina sponsored a family of 4 at Christmas, including the gifting of two bicycles
  - Drama club performance has been delayed due to COVID
- v. Upcoming field trips
  - 5<sup>th</sup> grade going to Charlotte Motor Speedway
  - 8<sup>th</sup> grade going to Washington DC
  - School is at full enrollment for the first time in 3 years
  - Interest night delayed due to COVID; now scheduled for February 1<sup>st</sup>
    - Currently 85+ students on list for 5<sup>th</sup> grade
    - Lottery to be expected
  - MLK Jr parade will be on February 19<sup>th</sup>
  - Valentine's Day dance happening during the day so that all students can participate
    - 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade in the morning
    - 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade in the afternoon

**6. Meeting Finalization:**

- a. Review actions to be taken:
  - i. Patsy to send letter of resignation
- b. Next Meeting:
  - i. February 15 @ 5pm
  - ii. Lottery to follow @ 6pm
- c. Comments:
  - i. None
- d. Meeting close:
  - i. It was motioned by Tim to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Chasity and approved. Meeting was adjourned at 7 pm.